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THE EAGLE

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 27 www.associatednewspapers.net

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE
Vol. 138, No. 27

There are about 20 drivers who learned an expensive lesson recently after disregarding construction zone traffic signs in Sumpter Township.

See page 2.

THE CANTON EAGLE
Vol. 76, No. 27

Canton Township Police Sgt. Jeremy Quinn, a 17-year veteran of the force, has retired from the department.

See page 4.

THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR
Vol. 76, No. 27

The Inkster Summer Music Festival, a weekend of free community entertainment is set for July 15, 16 and 17 at 2025 Inkster Road, north of Michigan Avenue.

See page 2.

THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
Vol. 23, No. 27

A 33-year-old Detroit man has been arrested and faces 14 felony charges in connection with the June 13 discharge of a firearm in Northville Township.

See page 6.

THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE
Vol. 23, No. 27

Charges of criminal sexual assault of minor children against a Plymouth man have been dropped by Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy.

See page 6.

THE ROMULUS ROMAN
Vol. 138, No. 27

Officials at Sheetz, a 24-hour regional convenience store and gas station, last week confirmed plans to open the first Michigan facility in Romulus.

See page 3.

THE WAYNE EAGLE
Vol. 76, No. 27

Mayor Pro-tem Tom Porter submitted his resignation from the Wayne City Council during the June 20 meeting.

See page 5.

THE WESTLAND EAGLE
Vol. 76, No. 27

Blues, Brews & Barbecue will return to Westland Friday, Aug. 4 and Saturday, Aug. 5 with live music, a 200 drone light show, fireworks, top BBQ pitmasters and ice-cold draft brews.

See page 5.

State budget includes local project funding

The $81.7 billion state budget awaiting Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's signature includes funding for multiple local projects as legislators seek to use a record surplus for local infrastructure improvements.

Those local projects include $5 million for reconstruction of roads and sidewalks in Canton Township. Canton was also awarded another $2 million to fund a youth center in the township and $7 million for the fire station construction project.The budget also includes a $10 million grant to prepare a site on Five Mile Road for economic development, $100,000 for Northville Maybury park facilities upgrades; $200,000 for Kellogg Park in Plymouth upgrades and $50,000 for a Plymouth Police Department cruiser.

The City of Belleville is listed as the recipient of $10 million for repairs to the Denton Road bridge in the community. In addition, Van Buren Township will receive $1.8 million for expansion of the Iron Belle Trail which also runs through Sumpter and Van Buren townships.

> *Included in the budget is $24 billion in funding for Michigan schools in response to educational setbacks.*

The City of Westland is also listed in the budget as receiving a $7 million grant for fire station equipment and emergency response equipment.

While Whitmer is expected to sign the highest-ever state budget approved by the Legislature last week when Democrats - who hold a two-seat majority in the House and Senate - gained enough Republican support to approve the plan. The new budget, if signed as expected by Whitmer, will take effect Oct. 1, the start of the next fiscal year, although efforts are under way to adopt the spending "effective immediately."

While several Republican legislators criticized the grants as "pork" benefiting small local community projects and downplayed the emphasis on educational spending, Democrats praised the allocations as a bipartisan effort which included several Republican sponsored projects. Democrats also defended the budget noting that for the first time the document included specific communities and projects for grants while previous budgets listed only a general area and an incomplete or missing description of the use of the funds.

Included in the budget is $24 billion in funding for Michigan schools in response to educational setbacks realized during the pandemic. All state districts will receive a 5 percent increase in per pupil funding, to $9,608 from $9,150, in addition to a $205 million increase across the state in funding for at risk students.

Democratic State Sen. Darrin Camilleri, who represents District 4, is a former teacher who was involved in the preparation of the education portion of the budget.

He called the education budget "truly historic" and said that Michigan is now "leading the nation when it comes to helping our at-risk students."

A program to provide free breakfast and lunch for all students, regardless of income, is included in the budget as Michigan and other states attempt to ameliorate the lapsed

See **Budget,** page 6

Art In The Park begins in Plymouth tomorrow

Art In The Park, voted "Best Local Event" by the Detroit Free Press and "The Best of Detroit" by HOUR Detroit magazine, is set to return to downtown Plymouth for the 43rd year this weekend.

Recognized as one of the "Gems of the Great Lakes" by AAA Magazine and ranked #41 by Sunshine Artist magazine, the festival will take place on July 7, 8, and 9, and include more than 400 artists from 36 states.

Visitors to Art In The Park can look forward to strolling along the streets of downtown Plymouth, where they will be treated to an array of fine arts crafted by dedicated artists, organizers said. Each piece displayed at the show is handmade, showcasing the artists' skill. The event not only celebrates the visual arts but also offers an array of activities, including live entertainment, live art demonstrations, and a wide selection of food options, according to a prepared statement.

Attendees will have the opportunity to witness the creation of unique art experiences firsthand.

The event will feature performances by The Monarch Hoop Troop professional hula hoop dancers, as well as displays by human statue and magician George Tait. At My Adventure Theater, children from the audience will become part of the show, creating a truly immersive experience in Kellogg Park.

Music enthusiasts can enjoy the sounds of reggae band Roots Vibrations, back by popular demand for all three days of the festival. Additionally, the world champion drummer and DJ percussion artist Ken Mazur will showcase his talent on the street. Visitors can also enjoy the melodies

of vibraphonist John Davis.

This year, the giant street chalk art mural will transport spectators to the wonders of ancient Egypt. Visitors can witness the masterpiece come to life before their eyes, as well as the "Living Mural" where models' bodies are transformed with paint, depicting the land of pharaohs.

Since the event began in 1980 as a small gathering of 30 artists sharing their passion for art in Plymouth's Kellogg Park, Art In The Park has evolved into the largest single art festival in the state. The event offers a wealth of activities suitable for the whole family, including a record number of young artist entrepreneurs in Kellogg Park, organizers said.

Art In The Park will be open to the public from 11 a.m. until 8 p.m. on Friday, July 7; from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m. Saturday, July 8 and from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Sunday, July 9.

A round-trip shuttle service will be available throughout the weekend from Schoolcraft College in Livonia. The shuttle fee is $6, while children younger than 12 can ride at no cost. As a special treat, FAYGO, one of the event sponsors, will be distributing free samples of their newest flavors to visitors.

For more information, schedules, and updates regarding Art In The Park, visit the official website at www.artinthepark.com or call (734) 454-1314.

Top of the class

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools superintendent Dr. Monica L. Merritt has been named as the 2023 Superintendent of the Year. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist, state Sens. Rosemary Bayer, D-West Bloomfield, and Dayna Polehanki, D-Livonia, signed a special state recognition of Merritt's achievement. "I am truly honored to receive this special tribute from our Governor, lieutenant governor and our two state senators," Merritt said. "I always say it takes a village to educate a student and I am so pleased and proud to accept this special proclamation on behalf of our entire team at P-CCS." Merritt (left) receives the special tribute from Sen. Rosemary Bayer during a recent Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education meeting.

Inkster - Sumpter

Tickets issued for construction zone violations

There are about 20 drivers who learned an expensive lesson recently regarding disregarding construction traffic signs in Sumpter Township.

During the June 26 meeting of the township board of trustees, Public Safety Director/Police Chief Eric Luke responded to a complaint about road closures from resident Mary Ban who said the poor conditions of the roads and the closures caused her to be late for the meeting.

Luke explained that the police department had been notified of a construction plan by officials from the Washtenaw County Road Commission just days before the current month-long drain improvement project began. Construction is currently under way along Rawsonville Road between Talladay and Willis roads in the township.

Luke explained that despite multiple efforts to notify drivers of the road closures in the area, motorists continued to violate the posted closure signs. He said there were already 20 violations issued to drivers who ignored the signs. The penalty is three points on the offender's driver's license and a $180 fine.

Luke said despite warnings posted on Nixle and on Facebook, drivers continued to violate the closure, which is necessary, he reminded the trustees, to protect the workers.

"We've had a busy couple of days with traffic enforcement," Luke said. "I want to make sure everybody understands that when you come to a sign that says road closed to through traffic or local traffic only, that means you need to take a different route." Luke added that the only traffic allowed past the signs would be for drivers who have no other option to reach their destinations.

"There are about 20 drivers who now have a piece of paper in their car that says they were in violation of that traffic rule," he said. He added that he was well aware that those drivers were "very upset", but his department intended to continue to vigorously enforce the restrictions in the construction zones.

"The first run at 7 this morning was a road commission worker who said people were actually going through front yards to get around where they (workers) were trying to set equipment," Luke explained.

"That is dangerous. Our job is to protect those workers when they close that road so we will be out there every day and every night writing tickets during the duration of that closure because people apparently don't understand and don't see the warnings."

Luke reiterated his multiple attempts to notify drivers of the closures and the penalties for violating the rules but that "people just did not take the time to even read or they think their time is more important than the safety of those people working there.

"We're going to do what we have to do" to protect the workers," he concluded. Information regarding the ongoing closures and locations is available at: https://www.wcroads.org/road-closure-with-detour-rawsonville-rd-augusta-twp/

Summerfest

The Inkster Summer Music Festival is set for July 15, 16 and 17 at 2025 Inkster Road, north of Michigan Avenue. Organizers said the annual festival is a weekend of entertainment and is free to the public. The event will feature live concerts, fireworks, food and vendors offering shopping opportunities. There will be a Kidz Fun Zone to entertain all ages, organizers said. The festival is listed as "always open" during the weekend and is hosted by Mayor Patrick Wimberly and Angie Starr and Mason. For more information call (734) 260-9672 or email inkstersummerfest@gmail.com.

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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING
May 22, 2023
Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Rd, Romulus, MI 48174

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro-Tem John Barden.

Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call

Present: Kathy Abdo, John Barden, Celeste Roscoe, Tina Talley, William Wadsworth, Virginia Williams
Absent / Excused: Eva Webb
Administrative Officials in Attendance:
Julie Wojtylko, Chief of Staff
Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk
Administrative Staff in Attendance:
D'Sjonaun Hockenhull - Deputy Clerk; Stephen Hitchcock - City Attorney; Jerome Frayer - DDA Director; Kenneth Chapman - Deputy Fire Chief; Patty Braden - Library Director; Roberto Scappaticci - DPW Director; Robert Pfannes - Police Chief

1. **Agenda**
   - A. Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **Kathy Abdo**, to accept the agenda as presented. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
2. **Minutes**
   - A. **Res. #23-145** Moved by **William Wadsworth**, seconded by **Tina Talley**, to approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on Monday, May 8, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
   - B. There were no special meetings held on Monday, May 8, 2023.
3. **Petitioner** – None
4. **Chairperson's Report, John Barden, Mayor Pro-Tem**
   Res. #23-146 Moved by **Kathy Abdo**, seconded by **William Wadsworth**, to adopt a resolution celebrating the 96th birthday of MaryAnn Ryznar. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
   - A. Moved **by Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **Tina Talley**, to accept the Chairperson's Report. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
5. **Mayor's Report – Robert A. McCraight, Mayor**
   - A. **Res. #23-147** Moved by **William Wadsworth**, seconded by **Tina Talley**, to concur with the Administration and introduce budget amendment 22/23-19 to cover the costs associated with the Campbell Annual Contract for the City Hall Municipal Complex, Senior Center, and Animal Shelter.

FUND/DEPT. ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	CURRENT BUDGET	AMENDMENT	AMENDED BUDGET
General Revenue				
101-000-390.000	Fund Balance	$-	$18,200.00	$18,200.00
Expense				
101-265-932.000	Heating & Cooling	$60,427.22	$10,000.00	$70,427.22
101-430-932.000	Heating & Cooling	$-	$1,500.00	$1,500.00
101-752-932.000	Heating & Cooling	$-	$6,700.00	$6,700.00

Motion Carried Unanimously

- B. **Res. #23-148** Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **Tina Talley**, to concur with the Administration and introduce budget amendment 22/23-20 to recognize the PCB Water Impairment Settlement revenue and the associated overtime expenses.

FUND/DEPT. ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	CURRENT BUDGET	AMENDMENT	AMENDED BUDGET
General Revenue				
202-000-677.000	Other Income	$-	$8,707.00	$8,707.00
203-000-677.000	Other Income	$1,000.00	$8,707.00	$9,707.00
Expense				
202-479-710.000	Overtime	$2,500.00	$8,707.00	$11,207.00
203-479-710.000	Overtime	$500.00	$8,707.00	$9,207.00

Motion Carried Unanimously

- C. **Res. #23-149** Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **William Wadsworth**, to concur with the Administration and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into the vendor agreement between the City of Romulus, City of Wayne, and Charter Township of Van Buren respectfully, and Hegira Health, Inc. to facilitate mental health services for community members who have made contact with the police department and are in need, effective July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
- D. **Res. #23-150** Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **Celeste Roscoe** to rescind Romulus City Council Resolution 23-122, adopted May 1, 2022. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
  Res. #23-151 Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **Tina Talley**, to concur with the Administration and award Bid ITB 22/23-21 to the lowest, most responsive, responsible bidder, Core & Main LP, and Ferguson Waterworks for two-year fixed pricing for water hydrants and gate valves in the amounts indicated on the tabulation sheet. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
- E. **Res. #23-152** Moved by **Kathy Abdo**, seconded by **Celeste Roscoe**, to concur with the Administration and approve the reappointment of Debra Hoffman with a term to expire April 11, 2026, and Candace Lewkowicz with a term to expire April 11, 2024, to the Municipal Library Board. **Motion Carried Unanimously**

6. **Clerk's Report – Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk**
   - A. **Res. #23-153** Moved by **William Wadsworth**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to approve the Study Session Request for Monday, June 5, 2023, at 6:15 p.m. to discuss the Quarterly Investment Report. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
   - B. **Res. #23-154** Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to approve the 2023/2024 Proposed Municipal Fee Schedule for the City of Romulus to be effective July 1, 2023.
     Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth, Nays –Williams
     Motion Carried
   - C. **Res. #23-155** Moved by **Kathy Abdo**, seconded by **William Wadsworth**, to concur with the recom mendation of the Executive Advisory Committee and appoint Charles Lindenmuth to the Construction Board of Appeals with a term to expire on May 30, 2028. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
     Res. #23-156 Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **Virginia Williams**, to concur with the recommendation of the Executive Advisory Committee and re-appoint Brian Lloyd to the Board of Zoning Appeals with a term to expire on June 30, 2025, and re-appoint Julie Allison as an alternate to the Board of Zoning Appeals with a term to also expire on June 30, 2025. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
7. **Treasurer's Report – Stacy Paige, Treasurer**
8. **Public Comment**
   A resident addressed the City Council regarding non-compliance of a section of the City Charter.
9. **Unfinished Business** – *See Clerk's Office for a complete copy of the Minutes*
10. **New Business** - *See Clerk's Office for a complete copy of the Minutes*
11. **Warrant**
    - A. **Res. #23-157** Moved by **Kathy Abdo**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to approve Warrant #: 23-10 for checks presented in the amount of $1,121,174.62. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
12. **Communication** - *See Clerk's Office for a complete copy of the Minutes*
13. **Adjournment**
    Moved by **William Wadsworth**, seconded by **Kathy Abdo**, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. **Motion Carried Unanimously**

I, Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan, certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held on May 22, 2023.

Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

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ROMULUS

Romulus 'Sheetz' store to be first in Michigan

The "ultimate one-stop shop to fuel bodies and vehicles" could open in Romulus next year.

Officials at Sheetz, a 24-hour regional convenience store and gas station, last week confirmed plans to open the first Michigan facility in Romulus, about 4 miles from Metro Detroit Airport. The new store will be at 33380 Wick Road just north of Interstate 94, officials announced last week. The stores are owned by a private company based in Altoona, PA. A tentative opening date was speculated as late fall of next year.

The restaurant menu offerings have a large and loyal following at other locations across the country with fans calling themselves "Sheetz Freakz." The stores are open 24-hours and are popular for menu items including breakfast sandwiches, sliders, pizza, fried pickle chips, chips, fries and mozzarella cheese sticks. The 681 other Sheetz stores in several states feature self-service kiosks and have both indoor and outdoor seating. The store also sells gasoline and, where possible, has electric charging and car washes, according to the company website.

"Our goal is to continue working collaboratively with city officials in Romulus to open this location in the latter part of 2024," Brian Dinges, assistant vice president of real estate at Sheetz, said in an emailed statement. "Our goal is to offer Michigan residents the ultimate one-stop shop to fuel their bodies and their vehicles."

Sheetz directors consider several variables when selecting a site for a store location, Dinges noted. "We find that we can best serve our customers on approximately 2 acres. However, our model allows us to flex the size of our site to accommodate lots as small as 1.5 acres."

A typical Sheetz site includes a 6,000-square-foot building, 35-40 parking spaces, a drive-thru and six or eight fueling spots, according to the website. Plans for the Romulus store, however, include a 7,261 square-foot fuel station and a 6,879-square-foot restaurant/convenience store. The project was submitted to Romulus officials for a site-plan review on June 21.

Sheetz, founded in 1952, has locations in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia.

Patriots in the Park city picnic is set for Saturday

Who will claim the honors as Most Patriotic City this year? Romulus is preparing to compete for the title for 2023 during the Patriots in the Park event set for this Saturday, July 8 at Romulus Historical Park.

The picnic will include food and games as the crowd awaits the "Wounded America" charity motorcycle riders pass through Romulus. The annual fundraiser raises thousands of dollars to help local veterans and usually sets a goal of $35,000 for the event.

Food will be provided at the picnic from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. in cooperation with the Romulus Rotary Club.

> *Picnickers are urged to wear red, white and blue, and bring American flags and other patriotic items to display.*

The City of Romulus has been challenged by neighboring communities Dearborn Heights, Grosse Ile, Southgate, Riverview and Trenton for the title of most patriotic community. In 2022, the City of Riverview won the patriotic competition with the highest attendance. This year can be our year, city officials said.

"Let's show our neighboring communities our Romulus patriotic pride! Bring the family for some fun and games and help us raise money to help our vets," an organizer of the event said. Residents are urged to bring family members and friends to the picnic. Veterans will be admitted to the picnic at no cost and donations are accepted from all others.

Picnickers are urged to wear red, white and blue, and bring American flags and other patriotic items to display and wave as the crowd welcomes the motorcycle riders passing through on the charity ride. There will be prizes for the most patriotic display and best patriotic attire.

There are several other surprises planned during the event, organizers said. Historical Park is located at 11137 Hunt St. in the city.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING
June 12, 2023
Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Rd, Romulus, MI 48174

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem John Barden

Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call
Present: John Barden, Tina Talley, William Wadsworth, Virginia Williams
Absent / Excused: Kathy Abdo, Celeste Roscoe, Eva Webb
Administrative Officials in Attendance:
Robert McCraight, Mayor
Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk
Administrative Staff in Attendance:
D'Sjonaun Hockenhull - Deputy Clerk; Stephen Hitchcock - City Attorney; Julie Wojtylko - Chief of Staff; Maria Farris - Finance Director; Roberto Scappaticci - DPW Director; Kenneth Chapman - Deputy Fire Chief; Derran Shelby - Deputy Police Chief; Mike Laskaska - Director of Communications & Community Service

1. **Agenda**
   A. Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **William Wadsworth**, to accept the Agenda as presented. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
2. **Minutes**
   A. **Res. #23-169** Moved by **William Wadsworth**, seconded by **Tina Talley**, to approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on Monday, June 5, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
   B. **Res. #23-170** Moved by **William Wadsworth**, seconded by **Tina Talley**, to approve the Minutes from the Special Meeting - Executive Session held on Monday, June 5, 2023, at 5:45 p.m. to discuss union matters and the Special Meeting - Study Sessions held on Monday, June 5, 2023, at 6:15 p.m. to discuss the Quarterly Investment Report, and at 6:45 p.m. to discuss the applicants for the Honorary Street Sign Dedication Program. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
3. **Petitioner**
   A. Petitioner: Commons II Association
   Approval of a Block Party Event for Saturday, June 17, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and the closing of Hampton Street at Nottingham Drive and Buckingham Drive for the stated event.
   Chandra Williams appeared on behalf of the Commons II Association to petition the Council for approval of a block party event.
   Res. #23-171 Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **Virginia Williams**, to approve the Block Party Event as petitioned by Commons II Association for Saturday, June 17, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and the closing of Hampton Street at Nottingham Drive and Buckingham Drive for the stated event. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
4. **Chairperson's Report, John Barden, Mayor Pro-Tem**
   A. Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **William Wadsworth**, to accept the Chairperson's Report. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
5. **Mayor's Report – Robert A. McCraight, Mayor**
   A. **Res. #23-172** Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **William Wadsworth**, to concur with the Administration and introduce budget amendment 22/23-21 to recognize forfeiture revenue to pur chase new vehicles for the Romulus Police Department.

FUND/DEPT. ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	CURRENT BUDGET	AMENDMENT	AMENDED BUDGET
General				
Revenue				
267-000-682.000	Reimbursements	$-	$181,780.00	$181,780.00
Expense				
267-301-970.000	Capital Outlay	$216,300.37	$181,780.00	$398,080.37

Motion Carried Unanimously.

6. **Clerk's Report – Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk**
   A. **Res. #23-173** Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **Virginia Williams**, to amend the Honorary Street Sign Dedication Policy to allow for the approval of six (6) applications submitted during the 2023 application period. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
   Res. #23-174 Moved by **Virginia Williams**, seconded by **William Wadsworth**, to approve the Honorary Street Sign Dedication Program applications honoring Earlie Mosley, Mary Carter, Charles Curley, Kenneth Mientkiewicz, Oscar Hamilton Sr., and Jerry Ladach. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
   B. **FOR YOUR INFORMATION:** Notification of Water and Sewer Rate Changes
   No action is needed unless the Council, by a two-thirds majority, rejects the changes.
7. **Treasurer's Report – Stacy Paige, Treasurer**
8. **Public Comment**
   A member of the public addressed the City Council regarding the city attorney's opinion.
9. **Unfinished Business** - None
10. **New Business** - None
11. **Warrant**
    A. **Res. #23-175** Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **William Wadsworth**, to approve Warrant #: 23-11 for checks presented in the amount of $1,564,608.48. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
12. **Communication** - *See Clerk's Office for a complete copy of the Minutes*
13. **Adjournment**
    Moved by **William Wadsworth**, seconded by **Tina Talley**, to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.

I, Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan, certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held on June 12, 2023.

Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

RM0745 - 070623 2.5 x 11.703

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING
June 5, 2023
Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Rd, Romulus, MI 48174

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem John Barden.

Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call
Present: Kathy Abdo, John Barden, Celeste Roscoe, Tina Talley, William Wadsworth, Virginia Williams
Absent / Excused: Eva Webb
Administrative Officials in Attendance:
Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk
Stacy Paige, Treasurer
Julie Wojtylko, Chief of Staff
Administrative Staff in Attendance:
D'Sjonaun Hockenhull - Deputy Clerk; Stephen Hitchcock - City Attorney; Roberto Scappaticci - DPW Director; Ken Chapman - Deputy Fire Chief; Jennifer Madison - Assistant Technology Services Director

1. **Agenda**
   A. Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **Kathy Abdo**, to accept the Agenda as presented. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
2. **Minutes**
   A. **Res. #23-158** Moved by **William Wadsworth**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on Monday, May 22, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
   B. **Res. #23-159** Moved by **William Wadsworth**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to approve the Minutes from the Special Meeting - Study Session held on Monday, May 22, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the Water Rate Study. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
3. **Petitioner**
   A. Petition: Approval of a Block Party and Road Closure Request
   Petitioner: Jennifer Madison
   Res. #23-160 Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **William Wadsworth**, to approve the Block Party Petition for July 4, 2023, and the closing of Hearst Street, east of Chamberlin St., to the Dexter St. intersection for the block party event as requested by Jennifer Madison. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
4. **Chairperson's Report, John Barden, Mayor Pro-Tem**
   Res. #23-161 Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **William Wadsworth**, to concur with the Administration and the Human Resources Director's recommendation to approve the tentative agreement for the successive collective bargaining agreement between the City of Romulus and the International Association of Firefighters Local 4126, to be effective July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2027. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
   A. Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **Tina Talley**, to accept the Chairperson's Report. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
5. **Mayor's Report – Robert A. McCraight, Mayor**
   A. **Res. #23-162** Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **William Wadsworth**, to concur with the Administration and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into the Tri-Party Consultant agreement between Hennessey Engineering, the City of Romulus and the State of Michigan for Construction Inspection on the Huron River Drive Project. MDOT at a cost of $113,44.91, with 80% of this cost being paid by the State of Michigan. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
   B. **Res. #23-163** Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **Tina Talley**, to concur with the Administration and consent to piggyback on the MiDeal Contract 071B7700181/171180000001104 for the purchase of a 2022 Ford Bronco in the amount of $32,976.00 to replace the most worn out vehicle currently being used by the Building Department. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
   C. **Res. #23-164** Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **Celeste Roscoe**, to concur with the Administration and consent to piggyback on the Omnia Partners Contract #2018011-02-02 for the exchange on Premises to Exchange Online Migration for city-wide e-mail including Microsoft Exchange Software & Licensing for a total cost of $21,840.00. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
   D. **Res. #23-165** Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **William Wadsworth**, to concur with the Administration and award Bid ITB 22/23-23 to award the one-year contract for Firefighter Physicals for the City of Romulus Fire Department to Bio-Care Inc., at a base cost of $866.00 per firefighter, with written consent between the two parties, the twelve-month contract can be extended for three additional one-year terms. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
6. **Clerk's Report – Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk**
   A. **Res. #23-166** Moved by **Kathy Abdo**, seconded by **Tina Talley**, to approve the Second Reading and Final Adoption of Budget Amendment 22/23-19 in the amount of $18,200.00 to cover the costs associated with the Campbell Annual Contract for the City Hall Municipal Complex Senior Center, and Animal Shelter. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
   B. **Res. #23-167** Moved by **William Wadsworth**, seconded by **Tina Talley**, to approve the Second Reading and Final Adoption of Budget Amendment 22/23-20in the amount of $17,414.00 to recognize the PCB Water Impairment Settlement revenue and the associated overtime expenses. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
   C. **Res. #23-168** Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to approve the Study Session Request for Monday, June 12, 2023, at 6:45 p.m. for the Council to be presented with information about the MEDC Sidewalk Project. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
7. **Treasurer's Report – Stacy Paige, Treasurer** - *See Clerk's Office for a complete copy of the Minutes*
8. **Public Comment**
   The union president of IAFF Local 4126 thanked the City Council for approving the tentative agreement between the City and the union.
9. **Unfinished Business** - None
10. **New Business** - None
11. **Communication** - *See Clerk's Office for a complete copy of the Minutes*
12. **Adjournment**
    Moved by **William Wadsworth**, seconded by **Tina Talley**, to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.

I, Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan, certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held on June 5, 2023.

Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

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Canton

Veteran police officer retires

Canton Township Police Sgt. Jeremy Quinn has retired from the department.

Quinn served almost four years as a deputy sheriff with the Oakland County Sheriff's Office, prior to beginning his 17-year career with Canton in 2006. During his time with Canton, Quinn graduated from Madonna University in 2009 with high honors and attended numerous specialized trainings and leadership courses.

Early on, in addition to his road patrol duties, Quinn held numerous special assignments including bike officer, evidence technician, field training officer and detective with the investigations bureau. Quinn also served several years working with the FBI Southeast Michigan Trafficking and Exploitation Crimes Task Force. As a member of this elite unit, Quinn investigated human trafficking and child exploitation crimes, while providing invaluable resources to the Canton Police Department, officials said.

Quinn was promoted to the rank of sergeant in 2021, serving as a platoon supervisor providing leadership, training and direction to his assigned shift of patrol officers. He was also responsible for administrative assignments and special projects. Throughout his career, Quinn has received numerous awards, citations, and citizen compliments noting Quinn's patient and kind demeanor during stressful situations.

Quinn's compassion and professionalism demonstrate his commitment to the values and goals of the Canton Police Department, officials said.

"Sergeant Quinn was an outstanding police officer who significantly impacted the lives of some of the most vulnerable individuals in our society. His work on various assignments helped to bring justice for victims and their families, and his experience and leadership have helped to shape the future of our police department. We will miss Sgt. Quinn, but his legacy will continue through the officers he supervised and mentored. I am confident that the impact he made will be felt for many years to come," said Police Chief Chad Baugh.

Sgt. Jeremy Quinn

Graduation day

The young adults who participated in the 2023 Canton Police and Fire Youth Academy completed the week-long program recently. The academy taught students about the daily operations of both the police and fire departments to help participants gain a better understanding of the role local police officers and firefighters have within the community, officers said. The students learned about several special units within each police department as well how to use a fire extinguisher, earned CPR certification, experienced a K9 demonstration and participated in team building activities throughout the week.

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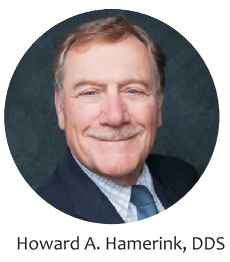

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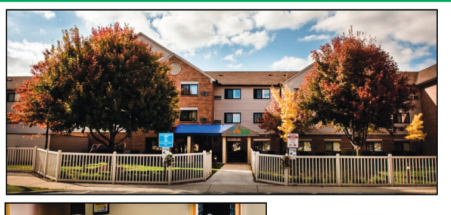

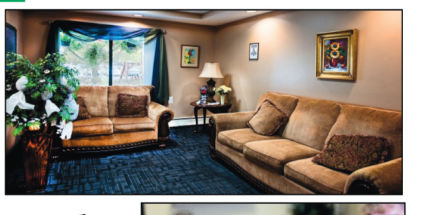

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WAYNE - WESTLAND

Wayne Mayor Pro-tem submits resignation

Mayor Pro-tem Tom Porter submitted his resignation from the Wayne City Council during the June 20 meeting.

Porter, who joined the council in November of 2015, had battled cancer during the COVID pandemic.

A city official speaking for the members of the Wayne City Council and the administrative staff in the city issued a statement regarding Porter's service on the council expressing "sincerest gratitude for his outstanding dedication and service during his tenure on the city council."

The statement commended Porter's tireless efforts and unwavering commitment to the welfare of the city as "truly remarkable" and said that he "has consistently displayed exceptional leadership qualities and a genuine passion for improving the lives of our residents. His vision, integrity, and ability to bring people together have made a significant impact on our community."

Porter championed various initiatives which resulted in positive changes and advancements in the city, officials said. "His expertise and insightful contributions during council meetings and deliberations have been invaluable, guiding us towards informed decisions and effective governance.

"Furthermore, Tom's dedication to fostering civic engagement and strengthening community ties have been exemplary. Through his community outreach, he ensured that the voices of the residents were heard and considered. Tom's commitment to inclusivity and equal representation has helped create an environment where every individual feels valued and empowered."

City administrators noted that Porter has been an inspiration to many and remarked on his indelible influence in the community.

"The progress we have achieved working with Tom will continue to benefit future generations. His selfless dedication and countless hours of hard work have set a high standard for public service, serving as an example for others to follow."

Porter, a U.S. Navy veteran, was significantly involved in the city Veteran's Memorial project.

"On behalf of the council, administration, and our grateful community, we extend our heartfelt appreciation for Tom's exceptional service to our city. His unwavering commitment and passion have made a profound difference, and his legacy will endure for years to come," the formal statement continued.

Wayne Mayor Pro-tem Tom Porter has resigned.

Blues, Brews and Barbeque to return in August

One of the most anticipated events of the summer will return to Westland in August.

Blues, Brews & Barbecue will return Friday, Aug. 4 and Saturday, Aug. 5 with live music, a 200 drone light show, fireworks, top BBQ pitmasters and ice-cold draft brews.

Live entertainment set for Aug. 4 this year will include: 5-6:30 p.m. DownRiver Dan; 7-8:30 p.m. Broken Arrow and from 9-11p.m. Larry McCray.

On Saturday, Aug. 5, performances include: 4-5:30 p.m. The Randy Brock Group; from 6 until 8 p.m. Kenny Parker Band with special guest Jim McCarty and Johnny Bee and from 8 until 10 p.m. Chris Canas.

The festival will take place at Thomas H. Brown Central City Park and is produced jointly by the City of Westland, the Westland Downtown Development Authority and the Westland Chamber of Commerce. Sponsorship packages for the event are now available starting from $250. To sponsor Blues, Brews and Barbecue, contact the Westland Chamber of Commerce at (734) 326-7222.

"Each year, Blues, Brews and Barbecue gets better than the year before and this year will be no different. From the music and food, to time spent with family, Blues, Brews and Barbecue is always a major event not only for Westland, but the whole metro Detroit area as well," said Mayor Michael P. Londeau.

The Kenny Parker Band will perform at the Westland Blues, Brews and Barbeque festival this year.

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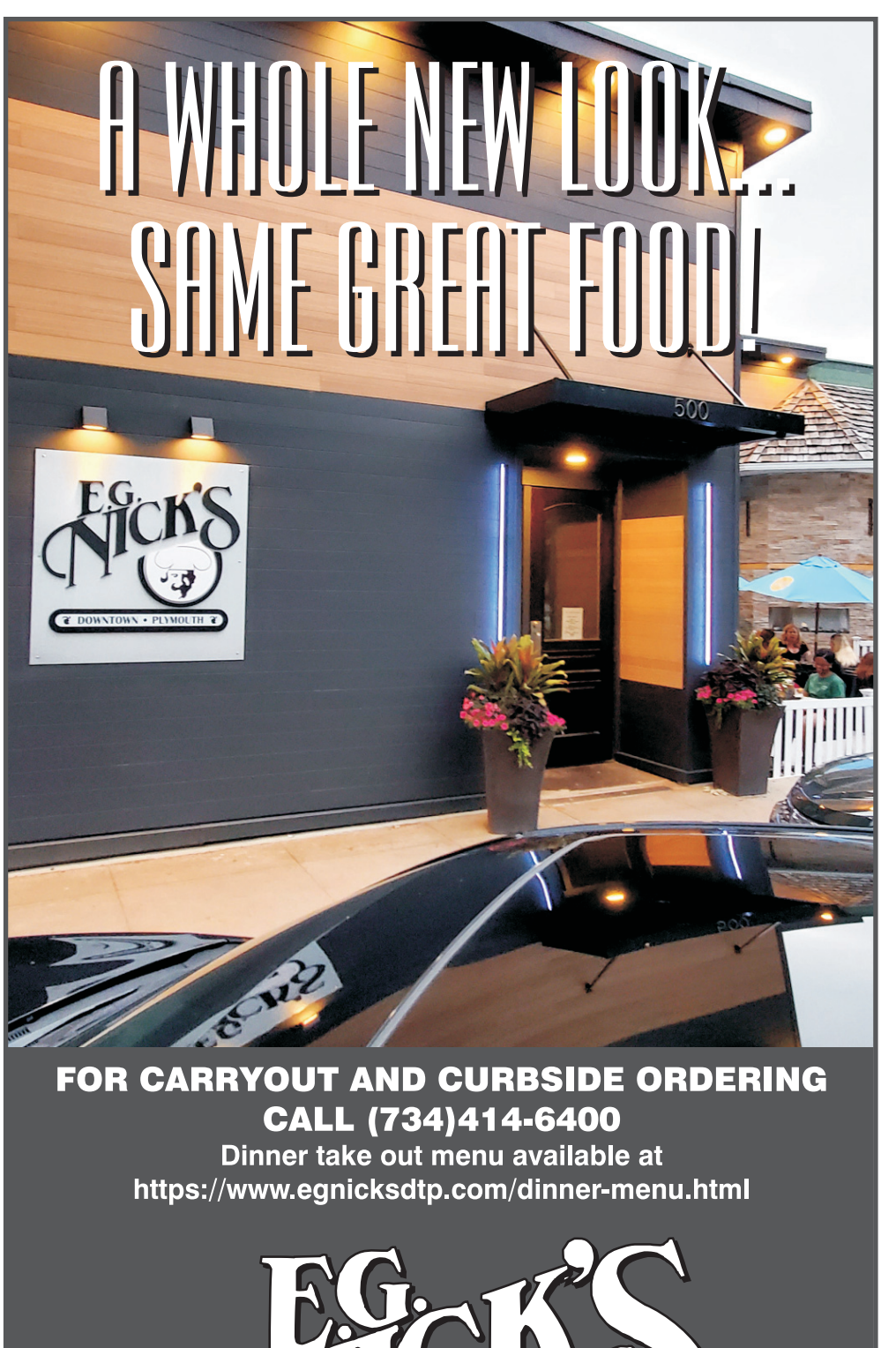

Northville - Plymouth

Prosecutor drops child sex abuse charges

Charges of criminal sexual assault of minor children against a Plymouth man have been dropped by Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy.

James Adam Baird, 44, of Plymouth, was charged by authorities on Feb. 1 in connection with the sexual assault of a then 8-year-old Garden City girl who is now 10 years old. He was also charged with the sexual assault of a then 8-year-old Dearborn girl who is now 11-years old. It was alleged that the assaults happened when he was working as a school vision specialist.

The original accusations claimed that at about noon in a school in the 6400 block of Hartel Street in Garden City, Baird sexually assaulted the then 8-year-old victim while administering vision tests. He faced the same allegations in another incident at 11 a.m. on a different date with a different child. He was charged in each incident with one count of second-degree criminal sexual conduct - person under 13. As a result of information received in the case, further investigation was requested by the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office of the Garden City Police Department. As a result of the police investigation, the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office moved the court to dismiss all charges without prejudice. Visiting Judge Randy Kalmbach granted the motion to dismiss the case against Baird on June 28.

> *We are certain that dismissing these charges was warranted. It is the right thing to do.*

"Additional investigation that we requested from the Garden City Police Department was crucial to the decision in this case. We are certain that dismissing these charges was warranted. It is the right thing to do. We have no further comment, as there is pending civil litigation in connect with these matters," Worthy said.

Baird also had two Westland cases 2023-22-707266 and 2023-22-707269-FY, scheduled for court hearings in 18th District Court earlier this week.

Northville now replanting or replacing 51 trees in community

Several residents in Northville have some new neighbors that require special attention.

The city is replacing or replanting 51 trees in the community as part of the effort to retain the status as a Tree City. That designation requires diligent maintenance and care of municipal trees, including replacement and a variety of plants.

Dead trees are being removing by DPW staff members and new plants installed in several areas. Staff members are planting various new trees along city rights of way, including species like fast-growing tulip trees to fall-color-favorite maples and even some lesser-known London planes, swamp white oaks, and the common huckleberry.

There is already a new tree in front of the Art House and three more on Cady Street that will provide shade on the north side of the Northville Post Office, city officials said.

This year, $18,000 is being spent to purchase new trees for the city from Marine City Nursery. In addition to planting new trees and removing dead trees, maintaining the tree canopy requires tree trimming and periodic treatment to contain various tree diseases, officials said.

Many of the replacement trees are in locations recommended by the non-profit, citizen-led Tree Champions group. These trees are in areas that fill open space when the right-of-way is too narrow to support a new tree that will grow into a huge tree in the decades ahead, officials said.

DPW Director Mike Domine noted, "The city has plenty of maples so we're planting other varieties. In some cases, we're matching maple trees because they are already on the street."

Officials asked residents with new trees planted near their home to ensure that the new plantings receive about 5 gallons of water every week.

Irrigation systems typically don't provide enough water for a new tree, specialists said. In Northville, the nearby homeowner is responsible for watering the tree year-round.

Keeping the trees supplied with water is integral to their establishment and growth, horticulturists explained. "It's very important that new trees get the proper care during the first year after being planted, especially as we head into a hot summer when trees may need even more water," officials said in a prepared statement

For more information, contact the Northville DPW at 248-449-9930 during business hours.

Suspect in shooting now facing 14 felony charges

A suspect in the discharge of firearms in Northville Township is now facing 14 felony charges.

Justin Darius Russell, 33, of Detroit was arraigned June 29 in the 35th District Court and is charged with discharging a firearm heard June 13 in the Silver Springs Drive and Eight Mile Road area of the Highland Lakes subdivision. Residents in the area reported hearing the gunshots at 10:17 p.m. and when officers arrived at the scene, they discovered evidence of firearm discharge near the area. No injuries were reported in connection with the Northville reports.

> *No injuries were reported in connection with the Northville reports.*

Northville Township detectives, members of the FBI Violent Crimes Task Force and officers from the Canton Police Department Special Operations Group developed leads in the case which ultimately led to the arrest of Russell. Russell is facing charges of assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder; weapons-firearms discharge from a vehicle; weapons firearms discharge in or at a building; weapons firearms possession by a felon; weapons ammunition possession by a felon; carrying a concealed weapon; assault with a dangerous weapon and as a repeat offender.

Bond was set at $1 million during the arraignment hearing.

Budget

FROM PAGE 1

federal benefit programs and address the strain to family budgets caused by food prices.

Michigan teachers could receive monthly payments toward student loans under a $250 million proposal in the budget as the state looks for ways to address educator shortages. Teachers in at risk districts could receive up to $450.

State Sen. Dayna Polehanki who represents Canton Township, and the City of Wayne was elated about the education funding.

"I am over-the-moon to report that in the budget we voted on this evening, I helped secure over $30,000,000 for Senate District 5. Yes, $30 million. It's a great day to be your state senator," she posted on social media immediately following the vote.

State Rep. Kevin Coleman, D-Westland, was also pleased with the increase in school funding.

"This is the largest proposed increase in education funding in a generation, and it couldn't come at a more crucial time. We've failed our students over the last 10 years, forcing our schools to do more with less. They deserve the kind of bold proposals Gov. Whitmer has suggested to get our students back on the path to success - because when they succeed, so does Michigan. I look forward to working with the governor and my colleagues to provide the resources necessary for our schools to excel."

State Rep. Matt Koleszar (D-Plymouth) was also pleased with the spending plan which includes nearly $15 million for projects in his district.

"As a teacher-turned-legislator, and chair of the House Education Committee, I'm happy to see the largest investment in education in state history, and I'm proud that I got the chance to vote yes on it. This budget will not only provide affordable preschool for kids, it will ensure that no kids go hungry during the school day by providing free school breakfast and lunch for all students."